

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 MCT-01 SY-05 IO-13 HA-05 USSS-00 /100 W  
-----013124 180835Z /10

P 180807Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8441  
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY  
COMIDEASTFOR  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2252

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, PDIP, ASEC, DJ, ET, FR  
SUBJECT: FRENCH KIDNAPPING CASE; POSSIBLE RETURN OF ABMED DINI  
TO DJIBOUTI; FRANCO-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) ADDIS 2224 (B) ADDIS 2173

1. ETHIOPIAN MEDIA HAVE CARRIED OFFICIAL STATEMENTS BY BOTH  
FRENCH CHARGE NOLET AND FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN FOLLOWING  
BOUCAULT'S RELEASE EVENING MAY 16. NOLET EXPRESSED GOF APPRE-  
CIATION TO PMGSE FOR SECURING BOUCAULT'S RELEASE AND STATED "HIS  
GOVT WOULD DO ALL IT COULD, AS IT HAD DONE IN THE PAST, FOR  
THE DJIBOUTI GOVT TO FIND A PEACEFUL SOLUTION -- ACCEPTABLE  
TO ALL -- TO THE PROBLEMS DJIBOUTI IS PRESENTLY FACING." WE  
UNDERSTAND FROM NOLET THAT STATEMENT ACKNOWLEDGING CONTINUED  
FRENCH RESPONSIBILITY IN DJIBOUTI WAS A CONDITION OF PMGSE  
COOPERATION.

2. MOFA SPOKESMAN STATED THAT SINCE ETHIOPIA BELIEVES THAT  
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MEETING THE DEMANDS OF THE CAPTORS OF M. BOUCAULT (REFTEL B)  
WOULD HELP SOVE THE POLITICAL CRISIS THAT DJIBOUTI HAS BEEN  
FACING SINCE LAST DECEMBER, IT HAS MADE A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC  
EFFORT FOR HIS SAFETY AND RELEASE IN THE HOPES THAT THE  
DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AND FIND THE  
NECESSARY SOLUTION TO THE DEMANDS. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SPOKES-  
MAN FURTHER STATED THAT "ALTHOUGH FORMER FRENCH COLONIA

RELATIONS WITH DJIBOUTI HAVE TERMINATED WITH THE REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI, (ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIPS) ENABLE IT TO PLAY A SPECIAL ROLE IN GETTING GENUINE RESPONSE TO THE DEMANDS OF THE AFAR YOUTH WHO HELD M. BOUCAULT CAPTIVE AND FOR DJIBOUTI TO LIVE IN PEACE." THE SPOKESMAN URGED THAT "THE FRENCH GOVT SHOULD NOT VIEW THE MATTER LIGHTLY AND SHOULD BY REALIZING ITS RESPONSIBILITY, MAKE THE NECESSARY EFFORTS IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE SITUATION WILL NOT ASSUME A DANGEROUS COURSE IN THE FUTURE."

3. SINCE WE HAVE CONSCIOUSLY AVOIDED GIVING IMPRESSION HERE THAT USG IS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED IN INTERNAL DJIBOUTI MATTERS -- AND HAVE HAD OUR PLATTER FULL WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS -- WE HAVE NOT ATTEMPTED TO PURSUE INTRICACIES OF ETHIO-DJIBOUTI POLITICS. WHILE IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING PMGSE IS UNHAPPY WITH GOULED, IT IS LESS CLEAR HERE EXACTLY WHAT POLITICAL FORMULA IT WOULD FAVOR IN DJIBOUTI.

4. IN ORDER TO GET MAXIMUM CREDIT IN DJIBOUTI, PMGSE HAS ASKED FRENCH TO RETURN BOUCAULT THERE DIRECTLY. BUT FRENCH EMBASSY IS INSISTING THAT HE RETURN DIRECTLY TO FRANCE, PRESUMABLY BY AIR FRANCE FLIGHT OF MAY 23 WHICH DOES NOT STOP IN DJIBOUTI. FRENCH ARGUE THAT, AFTER SUCH HARROWING EXPERIENCE, BOUCAULT NATURALLY WANTS TO SEE FAMILY IN FRANCE BEFORE RETURNING TO DJIBOUTI.

5. FRENCH EMBASSY FURTHER REPORTS ON STRICLTY CONFIDENTIAL  
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BASIS THAT AHMED DINI IS NOW SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO DJIBOUTI MAY 19 AIR FRANCE FLIGHT.

6. NOLET HAS BEEN IMPRESSED THROUGHOUT BY CORDIALITY OF AND INTEREST IN CASE SHOWN BY FOREIGN MINISTER DR. COL. FELEKE GEDLE-GHIORGIS. LATEST EXAMPLE WAS THAT IN RESPONSE TO GUIRINGAUD'S TELEGRAM OF APPRECIATION TO HIS ETHIOPIAN COUNTER-PART, LATTER TELEPHONED PERSONALLY TO NOLET WITH RECIPROCAL GRATITUDE. FELEKE, WHO IS BETTER KNOWN HERE FOR HIS POUTS, IS CERTAINLY SMILING SWEETLY AT WESTERNERS THESE DAYS...FOR HOW LONG, IS OF COURSE ANOTHER QUESTION.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, PRISONERS RELEASE, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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